

PARISH PROFILE
for
SAINT FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 2019



Located at: 16608 Highway 76, Pauma Valley, CA 92061

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INTRODUCTION

St. Francis began as a Preaching Station in 1960. The early founding members met at the Pauma Valley Community Center, adjacent to the present-day church. The Los Angeles Diocese provided a visiting priest once a month and the other services were staffed by lay readers from other churches in the area. The current adobe building opened for the first service in 1975 (without a mortgage) and is now part of the San Diego Diocese.

The surrounding community, which includes Valley Center, Pauma Valley and Palomar Mountain, is rural with thriving agricultural businesses. There are five Indian reservations in the vicinity, four with casinos.

Our current priest is Rev. Fred Thayer, who will be retiring in July 2019. The Vestry consists of nine members with terms expiring in groups of three. Saint Francis is a small church, capable of supporting a part-time priest.

The Gifts and Skills Essential to the Future Leaders of Our Worshipping Community

- A committed disciple of Christ who is solidly grounded in scripture as the inspired, living word of God and will help us grow deeper in Christ.
- A spiritually inspiring preacher and worship leader.
- A warm, loving and compassionate person who works well in a team, builds a sense of fellowship, resolves conflicts effectively, and will provide meaningful goals and direction for us.
- A witness to the love of Christ who encourages and supports members in worship, ministry, and study.
- A priest who is comfortable in leading traditional worship and incorporating some contemporary worship and music.
- An able administrator, with skills in working within a budget and overseeing the day to day operations and finances of a church.
- A welcoming person who will help link our church and our outreach abilities by being active in the community and who will make connections with the people in the area.

Our Liturgical Style and Practice for Worship Services

Our worship services are grounded in Scripture and Christ. We have two worship services on Sundays, both with the Eucharist. The 8 a.m. is a spoken service. A few hymns are played by the organist during the service. The 10:00 a.m. service has music and a choir anthem. The Priest shares a sermon at each service. Sunday School is held each week for the few young children in the church. After the passing of the peace our “Sunday School” enters church for the remainder of the service. Announcements are shared at each service. This is a time to share current activities in the church. Prayers are also said at this time for birthdays, anniversaries and other life events. Special services are held during Holy Week. Holiday services are well loved, and many church members bring their extended families on Christmas and Easter.

Incorporating Our Parishioners in Ministries

St. Francis has a small congregation, but many are involved in the various ministries including:

- Greeters/Ushers welcome parishioners and visitors.
- A variety of people participate in reading the lessons and prayers.
- A chalice bearer assists with communion at each service.
- Many of the church members participate in the choir.
- Parish members have been involved with leading the Sunday School.
- Several serve on the Altar Guild.
- A well-attended Bible Study class is held on Thursdays, led by a well-qualified parishioner.
- Lenten programs have been developed by Parishioners.
- Many people sign up to help provide the coffee hour snacks, which is often a regular brunch.

Opportunities for other ministries are shared via the weekly bulletin, emails, sermon teasers, and the church website.

Caring for the Spiritual, Emotional, and Physical Well-being of the Worshipping Community

In a recent survey, members shared that they felt that St. Francis Episcopal Church is very strong in the area of caring for the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of its members. There is a love of fellowship and a strong connection between the members of the parish. The different generations have a strong connection with each other and truly feel that the people of St. Francis are a “family.” People enjoy spending time with each other after church on Sunday.

The prayer list is kept current and listed in the bulletin. The members of the prayer ministry update the church when appropriate of special prayers needed. When possible, altar flowers are sent to people in the local community who would benefit from them. The priest takes communion to those who are home bound and request the visit. The addition of saying special prayers during the announcement time in the church service has been welcomed. Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, long term travel, graduations, and retirements have provided a joyful and meaningful connection to the members in the church.

A specific example of how the members of St. Francis support one another, a young man from Guatemala, Eddy, was a part of our Parish for two years when his father was deported. Eddy had to leave with him. He was still in high school, and hoping to go on to higher education, perhaps in the U.S. The congregation continued to help Eddy with his schooling in Guatemala, which required money for tuition and uniforms, as well as some money to live on. Parishioners keep in contact with Eddy through Facebook. The person in charge of our book sale program sends him books periodically that will improve his English.

Engaging in Pastoral Care for Those Beyond the Worshipping Community

The people of St. Francis feel called to help others in the community. When a new project is presented, the parishioners respond with time and funding. In the past few years there have been many successful and meaningful outreach events, including the following.

- **Food Pantry:** This is an on-going ministry to supply food to the needy in this agricultural community. The Parish donates non-perishables and six large bags are filled and delivered to the adjacent Health Clinic each week. The clinic interviews new applicants for care every Thursday and one of the bags is given to each of the qualifying families.

- Backpacks: In August the parish donates backpacks filled with school items. Our tiny parish donated 60 this year, all given to local schools.
- Thanksgiving: The parish donates loaves of bread, peanut butter and jelly to the Interfaith Mission that feeds the homeless in Escondido.
- Christmas: The parishioners choose tags labeled with the gender and age of needy students from local schools. Gifts are then wrapped and given to the School District for distribution to the families in need.
- Cards: We, as a parish, send holiday cards to “Friends of St. Francis,” former members who can no longer be with us. We also send cards to the people on our weekly Prayer list for comfort and healing.
- Shoes: Throughout the year parishioners can deposit their loose change in a jar that is located outside the church entrance. This change is counted and used to purchase shoe cards from Payless Shoes. These shoe cards are given to children of various ages, through the school health clerks, to allow the students to purchase shoes to wear to school.
- Book Store: One Parishioner started the St. Francis book store, where books are donated, but can also be purchased. The money collected is used for our various ministries.

Our Worshipping Community’s Involvement in the Wider Church

St. Francis stays connected with the San Diego Episcopal Diocese. Parish members attend Diocesan conventions. Church members have supported Diocesan outreach events such as the Baby Shower for the Sudanese Refugee Network. In the past the church has sponsored and prayed for missionaries. One of our church members went on a mission trip to Honduras. Before and after her trip, during the coffee hour, details of the trip and photos were shared. Some church members supported the trip financially and prayers were offered to help guide the mission group. Another way the church stays connected to the wider church is through the “Prayers of the People” and other prayers. Each week, current events in the world are remembered through prayer. Connections with local people in crisis, the military and their families, elected officials are all remembered in prayer.

Our Practice of Stewardship

The vestry approaches someone from the church to lead the yearly stewardship drive. A letter is sent to each member of the parish as well as other individuals who support the church financially. The stewardship program is presented in a positive tone that encourages continued support of the parish. In the letter, the people of St. Francis are reminded of how their monetary support was used in the previous year. Church upkeep, pastoral support, worship, and outreach events are included in this letter. The church has been blessed with donations that allow for a healthy endowment fund. This fund is guided by capable individuals that make up the finance committee. This committee watches the church's investments and makes decisions that help maintain current levels and to increase growth. Based on the pledges that are returned and the available released funds from the endowment, the vestry, with help of the treasurer, creates an operating budget. This budget is closely followed each year.

In the past, there have been some projects that were not included in the budget, such as improving the garden areas. Special fundraising projects were created. The church also uses its financial resources to support the worship experience at St. Francis including employing a talented organist/choirmaster, providing for special experiences during worship like paying the trumpet players on Easter or special flowers for holidays. The vestry, the people of the parish, and friends of St. Francis, support the church, prayerfully attempt to make good use of the funds, and help to keep the church's healthy financial status.

Preparing Ourselves for the Church of the Future

The members of St. Francis participated in a recent church-wide survey. This survey showed that most are very content with their home church. However, the results also showed an awareness to reach out to the community to gather more people to the church, especially families and the youth. The following are efforts to get the word out about Saint Francis:

- A weekly article has been written and sent in to be printed in the Church News section of the Valley Center Roadrunner, a local newspaper with both print and on-line versions.
- The church has also increased its online presence by maintaining a church website and Facebook page

- The current priest sends out weekly updates to members via e-mail, which include “sermon teasers.” These emails are sent to stir up interest in the upcoming sermon and readings and to keep parishioners abreast of current ministries and activities. These have been well received.
- A recent effort at outreach was made by staffing a booth at the “Christmas in the Valley” annual event at Bates Nut Farm. Children were given an opportunity to decorate sugar cookies and information about the church was given out as well.
- The church will be part of an adobe tour sponsored by the Escondido Historical Society. It is hoped that this will give exposure to our lovely church which is in an isolated spot.

The parish survey also revealed that people are very pleased with the current church music, although some would like to have different styles of music incorporated into the service. We are a small church, but we have been committed to maintaining a quality music program. The organist has already begun to include a variety of music, including both traditional and contemporary selections.

Basic Information

Senior Warden	Steve Much, smuchs@concentric.net
Previous Senior Warden	Bruce Moody, bmoody1234@yahoo.com
Prior Incumbents	<p>The Rev. Frederick Thayer, Priest-in-Charge, May 2017 to the present</p> <p>The Rev. Wesley Hills, Interim Priest, October 2015 to April 2017</p> <p>The Rev. Stephen Schuneman, Priest-in-Charge, July 2013 to September 2015</p> <p>The Rev. Joseph Patronik, Rector, September 2003 to June 2013</p>
Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Katherine Jefferts-Schori 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego, CA 92107
Weekly Average Sunday Attendance	39
Number of Sunday Worship Services	2
Number of Weekday Worship Services	0
Number of Students in Sunday School	2
Number of Students in Adult School	10
Language (worship and classes)	English
Compensation available for new position	\$36,600 (\$30,000 plus \$6,600 auto and cell phone allowance)
Vacation	Four weeks, including four Sundays per year